



Scotland Rugby League



Scotland U16s Development

June 2017 saw the start of the Under 16 Development player pathway programme, led by Mike Wallace as head coach and Dave Vernon as Assistant coach. On the 18th June, 24 players attended Peffermill Playing Fields to begin their journey with Scotland Rugby League. With most players having played rugby union and having limited rugby league experience, assistant coach Dave Vernon, took the players through the basics of rugby league and passed on his skills and experience around the sport. Every player took on feedback and coaching points extremely well leading to great improvement in play and highlighted some great potential.

Following the first session, players had caught the rugby league bug and wanted more, resulting in the next session on Sunday 6th August being put in place. We welcomed new faces and received a few apologies for absences in this session. Head coach, Mike Wallace was unable to attend due to commonwealth commitments, allowing Dave Vernon to take lead on the session once again. The players were taken through specific skill drills followed by some small sided games. This allowed players to enhance their knowledge of the laws of the game as well as the skills required to successfully complete phases of play.



To ensure our programme was tailored to the needs and requirements of our players, all parents and players were asked to provide feedback on the past two sessions and provide details on what they would like to gain personally from the programme. Feedback which was provided clarified what the coaching staff themselves envisioned for future sessions. This included more game time and having a session every few months without conflicting with the players union fixtures.

To allow for more game time, Scotland Rugby League organised a joint session for the U16s Development players with players from the Newcastle Thunder Academy. The academy is designed to develop young players as they move along the talent pathway through improving four key areas, coachability, mental attributes,

game and movement. 14 U16 players travelled down to Kingston Park on Sunday 15th October to take part in the joint session led by the coaching staff of the academy. The SRL players were mixed with academy players and were taken through a vigorous warm up followed by specific skill coaching sessions which included tackling. The tackling skill session seemed to be the most challenging for some of our players. The players were walked through a 2/3v1 tackle situation which many have never done previously. Even though this style of tackling was new to our players, they once more took on feedback and coaching points extremely well and quickly took to the new style. All players who attended this session have done themselves and Scotland Rugby League proud.



Future Dates

Sunday 26th November 2017

Peffermill Playing Fields

10.30am – 3pm

Sunday 18th February 2018

Peffermill Playing Fields

10.30am – 3pm

April 2018 (date TBC)

Arrival, 11.30am Saturday,
Departure, 3pm Sunday

Residential Camp



Eligibility

- Under 16 on 1st January 2018
- Eligible to play for Scotland:
 - o Born in Scotland
 - o Scottish Parents/Grandparents
 - o Resident in Scotland for >5 years



Scotland U19s

2017 was a very successful year for the Scotland Under 19 side, with head coach Anthony Atherton taking charge of the group, assisted by Liam Prescott and former Scotland international Giles Lomax.

First game for the Scotland squad was a home game in Glasgow against a Northern Ireland team, comfortably winning 80-6. Attendance was encouraging with a mixture of friends, parents and a locals soaking in the atmosphere. One noticeable figure in the crowd was former Scotland dual code international and Leeds and Widnes fullback Alan Tait, who picked up his Scotland cap along with fellow pioneers Struan Douglas, Billy Gamba & Gavin Manclark. Next up for Scotland U19s was a trip to London to play the London Skolars, as a curtain raiser for the senior League 1 game between London Skolars and Hemel Stags. The young bravehearts played well and came out 10-32 winners. A hard fought game against a Cumbria select in Barrow was next in the calendar, knowing a close game was likely as the previous year where the two sides had held each other to a draw, Scotland came out with a narrow 32-34 victory. Finally, for the U19s in the 2017 season was an away fixture against England Lions; though improving on last years result the English side came away with the win, defeating Scotland 36-10.

The year was geared to building a strong platform for Scotland to compete at the U19s European Championships which are to be held in Belgrade, Serbia, in August 2018. A number of players represented Scotland in this year with 28 young players pulling on the Saltire across our four games and a number of these making their debuts. We have a number of players already coming through the Under 16s programme for next season and we look forward to nurturing their development with Scotland Rugby League. We also have a number of players leaving the under 19s programme and whether they move onto the Students and Senior squads, or to other opportunities within rugby league; on behalf of all at Scotland RL, we'd like to wish everyone of them the best of luck in future.



Future Dates:

Sunday 26th November

10.30 am - 3pm

Peffermill Playing Fields

Sunday 7th January

10.30am - 3pm

Peffermill Playing Fields



Eligibility

- Under 19 on 1st January 2018
- Eligible to play for Scotland:
 - o Born in Scotland
 - o Scottish Parents/Grandparents
 - o Resident in Scotland for >5 years

Youth Development

After his son Euan attended the first Under 16 session on June 18th. Murray, head coach of Strathmore Sharks asked if Scotland Rugby League would come and lead a taster session for the youth section within Strathmore RFC. 22 players attended the session and were extremely keen to learn the basics of the game. The players were led through various skill specific drills followed by small sided games. It was obvious the players found the change in form from union to league quite confusing. However, towards the end of the session, all players had seemed to grasp the difference and thoroughly enjoyed the high intensity of rugby league.



Following the success of the first session with the Strathie Sharks, Scotland Rugby League were invited back to run another session for the players. Feedback from the first session showed that the boys would be keen to have more contact involved in the sessions. They asked, so we provided. The players were introduced to the 2-man tackle, completely different to what they are comfortable with. The players slowly picked up the tackle change and put this into a game situation. It was great to see how much the players had improved from the first session, to the end of the second session. The players seemed to thoroughly enjoy the sessions with one player asking if they could play more rugby league, this coming from the same player who initially asked, 'what is the point in rugby league, if there are no rucks, mauls or contested scrums?' We look forward to working with Strathie Sharks in the future.

Scottish Women and Girls in Sport Week

2nd - 8th October

To celebrate women and girls in sport week, SRL looked at running taster sessions for University Women's Rugby Teams. Due to the BUCS and other university commitments we were only able to hold a taster session for Queen Margaret University Women's Rugby team. QMU have a partnership with Lismore Ladies therefore the session was great mix of university players and Lismore players. The ladies were receptive to the changes and quickly picked up the basics of rugby league. From speaking with the head coach for the ladies, he mentioned he could see the benefit of his players having the opportunity to play both forms and how each form can benefit the other.

Scotland Rugby League also wanted to provide girls within schools the chance to play the game and believed Active Girls day on Friday 6th October was the perfect opportunity. We organised three primary school sessions ranging from P1 to P6 pupils. During the hour sessions, we provided the pupils with the fundamentals of the game and got them all running about being active. One teacher shared that the females within her class normally shy away from physical education and she was extremely impressed that the girls were so keen to get involved and gave 100% effort. Following the success of these sessions, we are working with active schools to arrange a 10-week programme within various primary schools in the West Glasgow area.



Wheelchair Rugby League

On Saturday 7th October, Scotland Wheelchair Rugby League, held a 'Come and Try' event followed by an exhibition match between our two clubs, Glasgow Panthers, and Dundee Dragons. Peter Lewis, Scotland Wheelchair Head Coach, led the come and try event. Taking players through drills including chair movements, passing, and tackling. Including spectators, there was around 30 individuals involved in the event, ranging from current International players to individuals who have never used a sport chair before, we even had individuals travel from England to take part in the day. The exhibition match then followed the event. This allowed new players the opportunity to see the skills and techniques they have learned in a game situation. Overall the event was a great success, allowed SWRL to promote the sport and had led to great new potentials in both club and international players.

Eligibility

- Minimum age 14 on 1st January 2018
- Eligible to play for Scotland:
 - o Born in Scotland
 - o Scottish Parents/Grandparents
 - o Resident in Scotland for >5 years



Scotland Wheelchair Rugby League

National Training Dates:

Saturday 27th January 2018

Location TBC

Saturday 24th February 2018

Location TBC

Saturday 21st April 2018 – Invite Only

Location TBC



Volunteer

Volunteers are key to help the promotion and growth of the sport, rugby league within Scotland. We are very privileged to have a great network of volunteers who perform various roles, from coaching international squads to background organizational work.

This issue we would like to highlight one of our volunteers who does an incredible amount of work for Scotland Rugby League, Peter Lewis.

From a young age Peter took an interest in Rugby League and started playing for his secondary school in Glasgow. Following his school days, he became involved in local clubs, playing regular fixtures throughout the season. He then took an interest in coaching, initially coaching football and trampolining. Due to his interest in Rugby League, Peter started to deliver more rugby league sessions during school curriculum time and after school.

Peter, then reformed and coached at an open age club and then moved on to coach at various other clubs including the youth side at Easterhouse Panthers, developing several current Scotland U19 players.

The opportunity to volunteer as a video analysis for the Scotland Wheelchair Rugby League squad arose and Peter jumped at the opportunity. This then led to Peter becoming an assistant coach for the squad. When the head coach stepped down Peter then progressed to head coach, initially a joint position, where he led the squad to the four Nations tournament, Celtic Cup tournament and most recently the Wheelchair Rugby League World Cup in France 2017.



Volunteer Roles

Coach

Responsible for the delivery of coaching sessions as part of an organized curricular and extracurricular schools programme, wheelchair or at open age club level. Promote the sport of rugby league and the Scotland Rugby League values.

The main responsibilities include, planning and delivering high quality coaching sessions to various groups of individuals ranging from Primary pupils to open age senior teams, develop the skills of players and promote the game of rugby league to attract and recruit new players.

Strong communication and organizational skills are essential. Previous game experience would be beneficial, however training can be provided.



Match Official

Match officials are essential to the game of rugby league and anyone can take up the whistle. A match official ensures the game is played by the laws in a safe and competitive manner.

To become a match official, you must be 16 years or older, complete a free online 'Laws of the Game' training module and attend a course.



Interested in Volunteering?

- Coaching
- Match Official
- Organizational work

Contact Carrie-ann Downs (Development Officer):

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